Report on Pakistan's nuclear Self-Reliance

982. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 5th February, 1991 under the caption "Pakistan achieves nuclear self-reliance";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report claims that Pakistan will be using "Solution Mining" for recovering uranium from low grade deposits in sandy rocks.

(c) Government are aware of Pakistan's pursuit of a clandestine and weapons oriented nuclear programme. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Collaboration of private entrepreneurs with Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

983. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has launched a new scheme providing an opportunity to private entrepreneurs to collaborate with the telephone authorities in extending a variety of telecom facilities to the Public; and

(b) if so, the highlights thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) Yes Sir. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has launched a Telecom Centre franchise scheme with comprehensive telecom facilities for use by the Public, to be run by the private entrepreneurs in the cities of Delhi and Bombay.

(b) Highlights of the scheme are given in the Statement.

Statement

(a) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has launched a Telecom. Centre franchise Scheme with comprehensive telecom facilities for use by the Public to be run by the private entrepreneurs in the cities of Delhi & Bombay.

(b) High lights of above scheme are as follows:

1. Telecom Centre will provide following facilities:

(i) Local & STD/ISD Public Telephone Service.

(ii) FAX service

(iii) Telex service.

With MTNL's approval Centre may also provide additional services like answering and messaging service, high speed data transmission, access to International data, etc.

2. An authorised Telecom Centre operating agency will have to pay Rs. 10,000 as non interest bearing refundable security. Over and above this they will have to pay additional charges/deposit for each service run by the Centre as under:

(i) Local/Public telephone:

Security deposit of Rs. 1800 will be required to be deposited in addition to ensuring a minimum guaranteed revenue of Rs. 300 per month.

(ii) STD/ISD telephone:

Security deposit of Rs. 9600 will be required to be deposited in addition to ensuring a minimum